GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

A B S T R A C T

Agriculture & Cooperation Department – Horticulture – V & E Case - Sri Y. Vidya Sankar, the then Assistant Director of Horticulture, Anantapuramu and subsequently retired as Joint Director of Horticulture, O/o Commissioner of Horticulture, A.P., Guntur and Smt. S.Fazallunnisa Begum, Horticulture officer, Tadipatri, Anantapuramu district – Allegations of Irregularities in Land Acquisition in Chagallu Reservoir (PABR-Stage-II)) – Disciplinary action proposed - Representation submitted – Dropping of further action – Orders – Issued.

AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (VIG.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt. No.597 **Dated: 15/09/2022**

Read the Following:

1. From the Director General (V&E) and E.O.Prl.Secretary to Govt., Vigilance Report No. 25 (C.No.631/V&E/D3/2014), dt.14.05.2018.
2. U.O. Note No.16021/37/2018, Revenue (Vig.I) Dept., dt: 14.9.2018.
3. U.O.Note.No.30021/44/2018, A & C (Vig.I) Dept., dt.21.05.2019
4. U.O.Note.No.30021/44/2018, A & C (Vig.I) Dept.,dt.11.03.2022.
5. From the Secretary to CM, Chief Ministers Office, Amaravathi, CMP No.4115/Secy.(DR)/2022, dt.28.03.2022, along with representation dt.21.03.2022 of Sri Y. Vidya Sankar, the then Asst. Director of Horticulture, Anantapuramu.
6. Govt. Memo.No.30021/44/2018, A & C (Vig.I) Dept., dt.27.04.2022.
7. From the Commissioner of Horticulture, A.P., Guntur, Letter No.Estt-I(2)27/2018, dt.31.05.2022.

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O R D E R:

In the reference 1st read above, the Director General (V&E) and E.O.Prl. Secretary to Government, has submitted a report on the adverse news item published in the 'Saakshi' Telugu Daily News Paper, regarding irregularities in Land Acquisition for Chagallu Reservoir (PABR-Stage-II) and recommended (i) to take action deemed fit against Sri Y. Vidya Sankar, the then Assistant Director of Horticulture, Ananthapuramu and Smt. S.Fazallunnisa Begum, Horticulture officer, Tadipatri, Ananthapuramu District and (ii) to examine whether the Rs. 40,53,538/- excess compensation paid to the Horticulture farmers as per the list of excessive payments, can be recovered.

2. In the reference 2nd read above, the Revenue (Vig.I) Dept. have informed that, as per the recommendations of V & E Department, they have decided to issue Common Disciplinary Proceedings under rule 24 of A.P. Civil Services (CCA) Rules, 1991 at Revenue Department Level against delinquents of all the Departments concerned and hence requested to tender consent of the Agriculture & Cooperation Department to initiate disciplinary action against Sri Y. Vidya Sankar, the then Assistant Director of Horticulture, Ananthapuramu and Smt. S.Fazallunnisa Begum, Horticulture officer, Tadipatri, Ananthapuramu district and also to furnish their Service particulars along with draft Articles of Charge against them.

3. Accordingly, in the reference 3rd read above, the Government, in Agriculture & Cooperation Department, have given consent to the Revenue Dept., for initiation of departmental action against Sri Y. Vidya Sankar, the then Assistant Director of Horticulture, Anantapuramu and Smt.S.Fazallunnisa Begum, Horticulture Officer, Tadipatri, Ananthapuramu District, under-24 of AP Civil Services (CCA) Rules, 1991 along with other delinquent officers.

(P.T.O)

4. In the reference 4th read above, the Government in Agriculture & Cooperation Department have furnished the Service Particulars and draft Articles of Charge in respect of the Delinquent Officers Sri Y. Vidya Sankar, the then Assistant Director of Horticulture, Anantapuramu and subsequently retired as Joint Director of Horticulture, O/o Commissioner of Horticulture, A.P., Guntur on 30.06.2021 and Smt. S. Fazulunnisa Begum, Horticulture Officer, Tadipatri, Ananthapuramu District, to the Revenue Department, as desired.

5. In the reference 5th read above, Sri Y. Vidya Sankar, the then Assistant Director of Horticulture, Anantapuramu and subsequently retired as Joint Director of Horticulture, O/o Commissioner of Horticulture, A.P., Guntur has submitted a representation stating that the Department of Horticulture is no way responsible for the excess payments made by the Special Deputy Collectors than recommended by the Assistant Director of Horticulture, Ananthapuramu & Horticulture officer, Tadipathri, Ananthapuramu District, and requested the Government to exonerate him from the allegations.

6. In the reference 6th read above, the Government have forwarded a copy of the above representation of Sri Y.Vidya Sankar, the then Assistant Director of Horticulture, Anantapuramu and subsequently retired as Joint Director of Horticulture, O/o Commissioner of Horticulture, A.P., Guntur to the Commissioner of Horticulture, A.P., Guntur, for examination and submission of his remarks/ recommendations on it.

7. In the reference 7th read above, the Commissioner of Horticulture, A.P., Guntur, has stated that, as per G.O.Ms.No.357, Revenue (LA) Dept., Dt.22.3.2006, in the procedure for valuation of orchards it is mentioned that, "The Assistant Director or concerned officers should personally inspect the garden, count the number of trees and first categorise the Orchard following guidelines enunciated therein. Before assessing the amounts payable under the category, he should verify whether recommended management practices like training, pruning, manuring, irrigation, deblossoming, plant protection, inter cultivation etc., are followed or not".

8. Further, Sri Y.Vidyasankar, the then Assistant Director of Horticulture, Ananthapuram has entrusted the work of valuation of orchards to Smt. P.Fazulunnisa Begum, Horticulture Officer, Tadipatri, Ananthapuramu District, along with the teams constituted consisting of Revenue staff. Smt.P.Fazulunnisa Begum, Horticulture Officer, Tadipatri, Ananthapuramu District, has inspected the gardens and submitted evaluation report to the Assistant Director of Horticulture and the latter has countersigned the report.

9. The Commissioner of Horticulture, A.P., Guntur, has further stated that, on examination of the report submitted by the Horticulture Officer, Tadipatri, it is observed that, the evaluation was made in accordance with the G.O.Ms.No.357, Revenue (LA) Dept., Dt.22.3.2006 and there is an excess payment of Rs.1,311/- only, for which Horticulture Officer, Tadipatri is responsible but not for Rs.1,24,588/-. Further, the excess compensation amount of Rs.40,53,538/- was paid by the Special Deputy Collectors of Revenue Department to farmers and hence, officials of the Horticulture department are not responsible and concerned Revenue Department is responsible for recovering the said amount and Smt.P.Fazulunnisa Begum, Horticulture Officer, Tadipatri, Ananthapuramu District, appears to have recommended compensation for only one Sapota tree in excess i.e., Rs.1,311/- due to oversight, but not intentionally and requested to drop further action against Sri Y. VidyaSankar, the then Assistant Director of Horticulture, Ananthapuramu and subsequently retired as Joint Director of Horticulture, O/o Commissioner of Horticulture, A.P., Guntur and Smt.P.Fazulunnisa Begum, Horticulture Officer, Tadipatri, Ananthapuramu District.

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10. The Government have examined the above case with the available material papers and taken a lenient view and decided to drop further action against Sri Y.Vidya Sankar, the then Assistant Director of Horticulture, Anantapuramu and subsequently retired as Joint Director of Horticulture, O/o Commissioner of Horticulture, A.P., Guntur and Smt. S.Fazallunnisa Begum, Horticulture officer, Tadipatri, Anantapuramu district in the above said Vigilance Report No.25 of V & E Department.

11. Accordingly, the Government, hereby, drop further action against Sri Y.Vidya Sankar, the then Assistant Director of Horticulture, Anantapuramu and subsequently retired as Joint Director of Horticulture, O/o Commissioner of Horticulture, A.P., Guntur and Smt. S.Fazallunnisa Begum, Horticulture officer, Tadipatri, Anantapuramu district, subject to recovery of loss caused to Government for excess payment i.e., Rs.1,311/- from the concerned.

12. The Commissioner of Horticulture, A.P., Guntur / the Revenue (Vig.I) Department shall take necessary further action in the matter, accordingly

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

POONAM MALAKONDAIAH
CHIEF COMMISSIONER, RBKs &
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To:

The Commissioner of Horticulture, A.P., Guntur.
The Revenue (Vig.I) Dept., Block-5, A.P., Secretariat.
Sri Y. Vidya Sankar, the then Asst. Director of Horticulture, Anantapuramu and subsequently retired as Joint Director of Horticulture, O/o Commissioner of Horticulture, A.P., Guntur.
(through the Commissioner of Horticulture, A.P., Guntur)
Smt. S.Fazallunnisa Begum, Horticulture Officer, Tadipatri, Anantapuramu District.
(through the Commissioner of Horticulture, A.P., Guntur)

Copy to:

The OSD to Secretary to C.M.
The OSD to Minister for Agriculture.
The PS to Vigilance Commissioner, A.P.V.C., Block-5, First Floor, A.P Secretariat Buildings, Amaravati at Velagapudi
Sf/Sc.

// FORWARDED BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER